



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 31, 1992

Mr. Warren Reynolds  
Salt Lake County Plan Review Section  
2001 South State, N3600  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84190-4050

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Re: Request for Recommendation, Rezone from R-2-10C to R-1-10, Interstate Brick Company, Big Cottonwood Mine, M/035/003, Salt Lake County, Utah

This letter is in response to your request for an approval or disapproval recommendation regarding the proposed rezoning of the Big Cottonwood mine site. The Division's position is essentially unchanged since the last request regarding rezoning of this property was forwarded to the Division. Please find reiterated portions of the last Division letter to Salt Lake County (August 28, 1990) describing this position listed below.

Under the Mined Land Reclamation Act of Utah, a mine operator must, upon termination of operations, leave the mine site in a condition suitable to support the approved postmining landuse. This would require the mine site to be left in an environmentally stable condition. All potentially hazardous or dangerous onsite conditions would need to be corrected prior to abandonment, if said conditions were a direct result of the mining-related activities.

The approved postmining landuse for the Big Cottonwood Mine is to return it to a native rangeland/wildlife habitat. According to Division files Interstate Brick, as operator, will be required to reclaim the mine site to a suitable condition to support the approved postmining landuse.

After a mine site has been successfully reclaimed according to the approved mining reclamation plan, the mine operator is usually released from any further reclamation obligation by the Division. A site is not usually released until a time period of three growing seasons has elapsed after the site was reseeded. What happens to the property after the Division releases the mine operator from his reclamation obligations, is beyond our regulatory jurisdiction.

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We recognize that there is a landmass stability concern above the northern end of this mine site which could have a negative impact on proposed development in the immediate vicinity of the mine. If we were required to make a determination on the validity of a commercial development postmining landuse, the Division would evaluate the site to determine if the mine operator had left the site in a favorable condition to support this landuse.

Before we could approve of a commercial development landuse, we would require that the operator demonstrate that the property had been properly zoned to allow this type of land development upon closure of the mining operation. Based upon our site inspections and the technical information we have reviewed to date, we would likely not recommend that a commercial development landuse be permitted under the present circumstances.

Thank you for requesting our input in this regard. Please contact me or Holland Shepherd if you have any concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Gallegos  
Reclamation Engineer

jb  
cc: Lance Jackson, Interstate Brick Co.  
Ann Goodart, Holiday Community Council  
Minerals Staff  
M035003